



## COURSE DESCRIPTOR

# Introduction to Science and Technology Studies

## Introduktion till Teknik och Vetenskapsstudier

7,5 ECTS credit points (7,5 högskolepoäng)

**Course code:** SO1306

**Educational level:** Basic level

**Course level:** C

**Field of education:** Social sciences (50%) och technology (50%)

**Subject area:** Sociology

**Version:** 1

**Applies from:** 2008-01-21

**Approved:** 2007-12-04

### 1 Course title and credit points

The course is titled Introduction to Science and Technology Studies/Introduktion till Teknik och Vetenskapsstudier and awards 7,5 credit points. One credit point (högskolepoäng) corresponds to one credit point in the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS).

### 2 Decision and approval

This course is established by The Education Committee of the School of Management 2007-12-04. The course descriptor is approved by The Education Committee of the School of Management and applies from 2008-01-21.

### 3 Objectives

Introduction to Science and Technologies Studies (S&TS) is a course to familiarise students with the role of science and technology in contemporary society. It clarifies the role of economic behaviour in relationship to innovation processes and its subsequent articulation with social change. The course focuses on information technology and the way in which it has participated to economical growth.

### 4 Content

The course starts with an introduction to the recent British and American theories of Science & Technology. It turns toward classical work on economic progress by Marx, Weber and Schumpeter worth considerations to deal with today's issues of economy growth in relationship to innovation. It concludes by clarifying the notion of technological innovation processes first as economical models and second as historical cases of software engineering development and innovation.

### 5 Aims and learning outcomes

On completion of the course the student will:

- Acquire an understanding issues central to studies

of science and technologies.

- Recognise the relationship between social change and economic growth and innovation.
- Get examples of cases studies of innovation issues in information technology notably in consulting and software development in mobile phone technology.

### 6 Generic skills

The following generic skills are trained in the course:

- Articulation theory and practices.
- Overview.
- Essay writing.

### 7 Learning and teaching

The presentation of current thinking in studies of science and technology, the articulation between social change and economical growth, demonstration of innovation processes through case studies analysis.

### 8 Assessment and grading

#### Examination of the course

| Code | Module | Credit | Grade  |
|------|--------|--------|--------|
|      | Essay  | 7.5hp  | U/G/VG |

The course will be graded Fail (U), Pass (G) or Pass with Distinction (VG). The assessment is made through a written essay. The grading includes the marking of the essay (for 60%), students' assiduity through their presence at both course and seminar (for 20%) and students' involvement thought readings for seminar (for 20%).

### 9 Course evaluation

The course coordinator is responsible for systematically gathering feedback from the students in course evaluations and making sure that the results of these feed back into the development of the course.

**10 Prerequisites**

Students should have completed the equivalent of 60 ECTS points (or the equivalent).

**11 Field of education and subject area**

The course is part of the field of education Social sciences (50%) och Technology (50%) and is included in the subject area sociology.

**12 Restrictions regarding degree**

The course cannot form part of a degree with another course, the content of which completely or partly corresponds with the contents of this course.

**13 Course literature and other teaching material**

Christophe Lécuyer (2006) Making Silicon Valley: Innovation and the Growth of High Tech, 1930-1970, The MIT Press, Cambridge, MA.

Complementary and introductory literature is provided during the course.

